(b) Other offshore oil fields namely Neelam-Heera, Vasai East, Vasai West and DI of ONGC are expected to produce as per projections of Eleventh Five Year Plan.

(c) Oil and Natural Gas Corporation Ltd. is continuously inducting proven, new and state-of-art technologies for production enhancement wherever deemed necessary. Some of the new technologies being adopted in Western Offshore include Advanced Drilling Operations, Well Completion, Stimulation, Work Over Operations, Artificial Lift, Water Injection, Remote Monitoring and Control of Operations and Production Optimization, etc. as well as engagement of world renowned domain experts, collaborative projects with foreign institutes and technology Joint Ventures.

**New gas pipe line projects by GAIL**

413. SHRI MAHENDRA MOHAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has sanctioned five new projects of gas pipeline to Gas Authority of India Ltd. (GAIL) to be laid in next three years;

(b) if so, the details of these projects alongwith the amount involved and their time of completion;

(c) whether it has been assured that sufficient amount of gas is available to GAIL for these projects; and

(d) if so, the details of the efforts made in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) Government has authorized GAIL to lay five new gas pipelines, namely, Dadri-Bawana-Nangal pipeline, Chainsa-Jhajjar-Hissar pipeline, Jagdishpur-Haldia pipeline, Dabhol-Bangalore pipeline and Kochi-Kanjirkkod-Bangalore-Mangalore pipeline. In accordance with the condition of the authorization, each project has to be completed within 36 months of publication of the respective first notification under Section 3(1) of the Petroleum and Minerals Pipelines (Acquisition of Right of User in Land) Act, 1962 in the official gazette.

(b) The approximate cost of Dadri-Bawana-Nangal pipeline and Chainsa-Jhajjar-Hissar pipeline projects is Rs.2500 crore and Rs.1000 crore respectively. The completion schedule for both these pipelines is 2009-10 (first phase) and 2010-11 (second phase).

As regards the other pipelines, their completion will be synchronized with availability of gas source and customer demands. Specifically, the completion of Kochi Kanjirkkod-Bangalore-Mangalore pipeline will be synchronized with Petronet LNG Ltd. (PLL)'s RLNG terminal at Kochi, which is likely to be completed by 2011-12.

(c) and (d) GAIL has considered the availability of indigenous gas from KG basin fields of RIL, ONGC and GSPC, as also ONGC's Mahanadi fields. GAIL has also signed agreement with RIL for transportation of gas from RIL's KG D 6 field. Further, RLNG from Petronet LNG Limited

(PLL)'s existing terminal at Dahej and planned terminal at Kochi, as also Ratnagiri Gas and Power Project Limited (RGPPL)'s Dabhol terminal, has been considered as a source of gas.

**Recommendations of Chaturvedi Committee**

414. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government intends to reduce the prices of petroleum products in view of the slump in international crude prices;

(b) whether Government has examined the recommendations of the Chaturvedi Committee and if so, whether the recommendations will be implemented selectively or as a package; and

(c) Government's stance on the suggestion of Chaturvedi Committee on differential fuel pricing?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) In spite of the recent fall in the international oil prices, the Public Sector Oil Marketing Companies (OMCs) continue to suffer substantial under-recoveries on marketing of sensitive petroleum products; namely petrol, diesel, PDS kerosene and domestic LPG. The under- recoveries of OMCs based on refinery gate prices applicable as on 01.10.2008 for PDS kerosene and domestic LPG and on 16.10.2008 for petrol and diesel are as under:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| PDS Kerosene | Rs./Litre | 28.07 |
| Domestic LPG | Rs./Cyl. | 322.14 |
| Petrol | Rs./Litre | 2.37 |
| Diesel | Rs./Litre | 6.45 |

The prices of crude oil and petroleum products in the international market fluctuate on daily basis. Government is closely monitoring the international oil prices and will continue to protect the interests of consumers.

(b) and (c) The recommendations of the Chaturvedi Committee are under consideration of the Government.

**Blending of ethanol in petrol**

415. DR. JANARDHAN WAGHMARE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has taken a decision to permit mixing of ethanol in petrol in view of the fact that the oil prices have gone beyond control;

(b) if so, what will be its percentage; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA J. PATEL): (a) to (c) Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas *vide* its notification